

Quarterly Progress Report

Project Title:	Impact of Rail Grant Program		
NJDOT PROJECT NUMBER: 2011-11		NJDOT RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER: Alex Perez	
TASK ORDER NUMBER: 267		PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Kaan Ozbay	
Project Starting Date: 5/1/2011 Original Project Ending Date: 11/1/2012 Modified Completion Date: 8/31/2013		Period Starting Date: 4/1/2013 Period Ending Date: 6/30/2013	

1. Project Progress Summary

<u>Task No.</u>	<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Percent of Total Project Budget</u>	<u>Cost of Task</u>	<u>% of task this quarter</u>	<u>Cost this quarter</u>	<u>% of task to date</u>	<u>Total Cost to date</u>
1	Review of Rail Grant Program	10%	\$26,555	0.00%	\$0	100.00%	\$26,555
2	Collect and Process Related NJDOT Data	16%	\$44,166	0.00%	\$0	100.00%	\$44,166
3	Review and Analyze NJDOT Award Criteria	11%	\$29,074	0.00%	\$0	100.00%	\$29,074
4	Interviews	10%	\$26,837	0.00%	\$0	100.00%	\$26,837
5	Economic Analysis of Grant Program Impacts	23%	\$61,219	15.00%	\$9,183	100.00%	\$61,219
6	Comprehensive Evaluation of Program	13%	\$34,723	30.00%	\$10,417	100.00%	\$34,723
7	Recommendations	9%	\$23,148	60.00%	\$13,889	100.00%	\$23,148
8	Project Management and Final Report	8%	\$22,644	5.00%	\$1,132	75.00%	\$16,983
Total		100%	\$268,365	12.9%	\$34,621	97.9%	\$262,704

Note: The task completion percentages are in anticipation of the work to be completed by the end of the current quarter.

2. Project Overview

Project Objectives

This research project studies the NJDOT Rail Grants program with the goal of developing a methodology for evaluating project applications in terms of their full benefits to the

railroad industry and the economy of New Jersey. The proposed work plan will address the following items:

- NJDOT's Grant Program Applicants, Funded Projects, and Selection Criteria
- Other similar programs and their evaluative measures
- Impacts of the past funded projects
 - o Impacts to shippers, receivers, and railroad operators
 - o Impacts to the economy
 - o Impacts to NJ highways

The proposed work plan will be executed with a combination of data collection, industry/partner outreach, and modeling. The rail grants program will first be studied and the available data processed and analyzed. Then surveys will be conducted with freight rail operators and users, with a focus on short line operations. The economic impacts of the past grants will be studied empirically, and a trucking industry impact model will be developed. Following that, transportation modeling tools will be used to estimate the impact of the short line industry on the highways of New Jersey, and the traffic impacts will be quantified in economic terms.

Cost/benefit analysis is proposed for the evaluation of the past grants, to determine which types of grants provided the most significant impact. Based on these findings, recommendations will be made to DOT on the future directions of the program in terms of types of projects to be selected for funding. From this analysis, a methodology will be developed for the agency to evaluate project applications in the future. Thus, this work plan will ensure that a detailed study of the problem from all perspectives is performed, providing NJDOT broad and useful analysis framework for project evaluation.

3. Description of Work Completed by Task over This Period

Task 1 — Review of Rail Grant Program

- The literature review phase has been completed.

Task 2 — Collect and Process Related NJDOT Data

- The data collection phase has been completed.

Task 3 — Review and Analyze NJDOT Award Criteria

- The task has been completed.

Task 4 — Interviews

- This task has been completed and summarized in Tech Memo 3.

Task 5 — Economic Analysis of Grant Program Impacts

- This task had been completed and summarized in the final draft report.

Task 6 — Comprehensive Evaluation of the Program

- A second meeting with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority will be held in June 2013 to discuss next steps. The findings will be summarized and compiled towards future recommendations.
- The research team has compiled key points concerning the program and included them in the recommendations.

Task 7 — Recommendations

- A preliminary list of recommendations was developed and shared with NJDOT at the May 31st 2013 meeting in Trenton.

Task 8 — Project Management and Final Report

- 7th quarter meeting was conducted on 4/12/13.
- A recommendation meeting was held with NJDOT program managers in Trenton on 5/31/13.
- The draft final report is prepared and will be submitted during the QR meeting for NJDOT's review

4. Proposed activities for next quarter by task:

Task 1 — Review of Rail Grant Program

- This task has been completed.

Task 2 — Collect and Process Related NJDOT Data

- This task has been completed.

Task 3 — Review and Analyze NJDOT Award Criteria

- This task has been completed.

Task 4 — Interviews

- This task has been completed.

Task 5 — Economic Analysis of Grant Program Impacts

- This task has been completed.

Task 6 — Comprehensive Evaluation of Program

- This task will be completed by the end of the quarter.

Task 7 — Recommendations

- This task will be completed by the end of the current quarter.

Task 8 — Project Management and Final Report

- 8th quarter progress meeting is scheduled for July 2013.

5. List of deliverables provided in this quarter by task:

- A draft final report will be provided for review.

6. Progress on Implementation and Training Activities:

- N/A

7. Problems/Proposed Solutions:

- None this quarter.

8. Project Summary:

Total Project Budget	\$268,365
Total Project Expenditure to date	\$262,704
% of Total Project Budget Expended	97.9%

NJDOT Research Project Manager Concurrence: _____ Date: _____